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computer through first commands and a second one of said plural areas is read, written or erased by the host computer through second commands which are different from said first commands.

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2. (Amended) An external storage device according to claim 1, further comprising information indicative of the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory,

the external storage device dynamically changing the sizes of the first and second areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory on the basis of an instruction of the host computer by a part which rewrites the information indicating of the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory.

Please add new claims 9-16 as follows:

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- 9. An external storage device according to claim 1, the plural areas comprising:
a user data area for storing user data therein; and
a management data area for storing management data therein;
the user data area further comprising said first and second areas, wherein said first area is a normal area and said second area is a protected area.
10. An external storage device according to claim 9, the plural commands comprising:
commands for accessing to the normal area; and
commands for accessing to the protected area
wherein the commands for accessing to the normal area and the commands for accessing to the protected area are different from each other.

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11. An external storage device according to claims 10, wherein:
- the management data area stores a start address of the protected area; and
 - the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory accesses the protected area when the command is for accessing to the protected area and an address issued prior to the commands by the host computer coincides with the start address of the protected area within the management data area and a protection function of the protected area is disabled.
12. An external storage device according to claim 9, wherein:
- the management data area stores a start address of the protected area; and
 - the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory accesses the protected area when an address issued prior to the commands by the host computer coincides with the start address of the protected area within the management data area.
13. An external storage device according to claim 9, wherein:
- the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out authentication of a user, and it disables a protection function of the protected area when the authentication of the user is successful.
14. An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:
- the management data area stores a password of the user; and
 - the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out the authentication of the user by comparing a password from the host computer to the

password stored in the management data area.

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15. An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:
the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out the authentication of the user when a command from the host computer is a protection disabling command for disabling the protection function for the protected area.
16. An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:
the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out authentication of the user when the external storage device is turned on. --

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 23, 2002. By the present amendment, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2 have been amended for purposes of clarifying the features of the invention. Also, new claims 9-16 have been added to further define features of the invention, as will be discussed below. In conjunction with this, consideration of claims 6-8 filed with the Supplemental Response of May 29, 2002 is respectfully requested.. This supplemental response was filed as an intended supplement to the Response to the Restriction Requirement of May 3, 2002, and, at the time of filing, the undersigned attorney was unaware of the May 23, 2002 Office Action (which did not arrive in the offices of the undersigned attorney until May 29, 2002). Accordingly, since these